

The Front Door Handle Buying Checklist

Five checks to run before you buy, from Luma Doors

Pick the type and security

1 Choose handleset, lever, or knob

Handlesets make the strongest front-entry statement; levers are easiest to operate.

2 Insist on a real deadbolt

Aim for an ANSI/BHMA Grade 1 or 2 deadbolt with a full one-inch throw.

3 Decide single vs double cylinder

Double adds security near glass but can slow an emergency exit.

Nail the fit

1 Match the backset

Usually 2 and 3/8 or 2 and 3/4 inches from the door edge to the hole centre.

2 Confirm bore and thickness

Standard bore is 2 and 1/8 inches; exterior doors are about 1 and 3/4 inches thick.

3 Check the handing

Know which way your door swings before ordering a handed handleset.

Choose for looks and weather

1 Coordinate the finish

Match knocker, house numbers, and fixtures, or contrast with all of them.

2 Buy solid metal, weather-rated

Forged brass or stainless with a corrosion warranty survives our winters.

3 Upgrade the strike plate

Use three-inch screws into the framing for the biggest security gain.

Planning a new entry or exterior door in Toronto and the GTA? We can help.

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